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## Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the God of all comforts, the challenges continue, but You have promised us strength for each new day. So give us this day our daily intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual bread that we may honor You.

Empower our Senators today to become instruments of Your grace, continuing Your work on Earth to liberate the captives. May our lawmakers seize the opportunities You give them to protect and bless our world.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 23, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am in a moment going to note the absence of a quorum. There will be no speeches until the Republican leader and I have a chance to visit and determine what we are going to do this morning. We expect a vote fairly quickly. We will do the best we can. We are waiting for a message from the House.

At this time, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2608

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I apologize to all Members for not being able to get here more quickly, but we have done the best we can. I have been waiting to hear from the Speaker for the last half hour or so and he has not called.

I ask unanimous consent that at 11:20 this morning, notwithstanding the message not having been received from the House with respect to H.R. 2608, the House message be considered to have been laid before the Senate; further, that I may move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2608 with an amendment, the text of which is the House amendment with a technical change; that there be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the majority leader be recognized to move to table the motion to concur with an amendment and the Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to table the motion to concur with an amendment, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask the time be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we can see there is not a stampede to talk, so I now ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the previous order, the motion to table be in order now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM EXTENSION AND REFORM ACT OF 2011

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the House message is considered laid before the Senate.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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